

The Eagle's Eye



Fighting a Global War



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Wing Commander

Col. Charles V. Ickes, II

Editorial Staff

Maj. Julia A. Kyrakis

Maj. Richard E. Bittner

Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas

Layout and Design

Maj. Julia A. Kyrakis

Maj. Richard E. Bittner

Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas

Senior Airman Lee O. Tucker

Graphics & Cover Design

Master Sgt. Shaun W. Withers

Senior Airman Lee O. Tucker

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Commander's Column

By Col. Charles V. Ickes, II
125th Fighter Wing Commander



This will be the last article I write for *The Eagles Eye* as the Commander of the 125th. After six exciting and great years, I will be leaving the Wing and moving to Washington D.C. to become the Chief Operating Officer for the Air National Guard.

As I reflect on my time in Jacksonville I look back with pride and admiration. My pride stems from all the remarkable accomplishments you have achieved. My admiration is for the tremendous support I have received while serving as your commander.

When reviewing what my vision was when I took command in March of 1996, I had two major goals. First was for everyone to work as one team, all pulling together to accomplish the mission.

I knew that the road ahead for the Wing would be difficult and challenging. No longer would we be the stay at home organization waiting for the "Big One."

Instead we would have to be ready to deploy on short notice and expected to arrive in any Area of Responsibility (AOR) ready to employ. It would take the collective efforts of everyone for the Wing to be successful.

So often in the past we had placed most of our emphasis on the flying and maintenance sections while paying little attention to the support areas.

I knew that in the new world of Aerospace Expeditionary Forces every section would have to be counted on to be successful.

The response by everyone was tremendous, and soon we were working together in ways I had not seen before.

My second goal was to be recognized as the best Fighter Wing in the Air Force. To make this happen we would develop a training plan

for the Wing that was aggressive and coordinated. Everyone would have to contribute for the unit to succeed. We would also have to work much closer with our fellow F-15 units in the Guard to meet the increased tasking.

We brought in new personnel who were not only ready to meet this vision but shared a wealth of experience and background.

The F-15 community embraced this "rainbow" concept, and with limited resources it is the only way we can accomplish our mission.

The events of 9/11 will now determine our future. How will the Wing be used in the future? What will the primary mission be?

Many critical decisions concerning our future have yet to be decided.

The reality is this: *we can only control what we can control.*

Throughout the organization, we are blessed with

tremendous talent and personnel.

But without a common goal that talent can lose its focus. It is more imperative now than ever that the Wing continues to function as one unit with one common goal.

Carol and I want to thank everyone personally for all the tremendous support we have received throughout our time at the 125th.

It has been the most rewarding and fulfilling time of our more than 32 years in the military. We will cherish the friendships we have developed.

I personally had an opportunity few will ever get. It has been humbling to lead such a great organization.

I have never worked with a greater group of people and I know that the Wing's future is bright.

I wish the best to everyone and know that "God will shed his grace on thee!"

It is more imperative now than ever that the Wing continues to function as one unit with one common goal.

- Col. Charles V. Ickes, II

Datalink War



Communicating in a joint battle-space environment

*By Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas
125th Fighter Wing Public Affairs*

In work environments, the importance of returning phone calls, sending e-mails and simply 'getting a point across' is a concept stressed by employers almost every day.

When phone calls are missed, opportunities are passed onto others. When an e-mail is sent to the wrong person, ideas are lost. But when the concept of communication is applied to a much more dire venue, warfare, the simple act of communication takes on a whole

Staff Sgt. Michael C. Vasko, a crew chief with the 125th Aircraft Generation Squadron, removes debris from the canopy of an F-15.



new perspective. During a war lives are on the line, and a simple communication error can prove deadly.

Pilots, maintenance personnel, security forces personnel and other members from the 125th Fighter Wing deployed to the Combat Readiness Training Center in Gulfport, Miss. April 11-26 to participate in a Joint Communication Information Evaluation Team (JCIET) exercise conducted to test communication capabilities in a joint 'battle space' environment.

Headquartered at Eglin AFB, Fla., JCIET is a subordinate unified command of U.S. Joint Forces Command, composed primarily of military staff from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines.

The team evaluates four mission areas during the 15-day war game: surface-to-surface, air-to-air, surface-to-air and air-to-

surface capabilities.

The evaluations that JCIET provides, according to the JCIET charter, give precise data that illustrates what actually occurred during a major operation.

The war game players—representing all of the Armed Services—gain important knowledge of other Services' systems and capabilities.

This was the first time the 125th participated in the 15-day joint exercise. They worked alongside other personnel from the Army, Navy and Marines, as well as members from the British Royal Air Force.

The host unit for the JCIET was the 186th Air Refueling Wing from Meridian Miss.

In addition to the Air Force F-15 and F-16's, Navy E-3D Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS), Marine Av8 Harriers, British Royal Air Force Nimrod's (maritime reconnaissance aircraft), the datalink war included communication coordination with Navy Cruisers.

Inside the operations control room, personnel used datalink technology to track the movements of the various surface and airborne assets.



"It's a big datalink war," said Lt. Col. T.G Kyrazis, 125th Chief of Safety and the 125th project officer for the exercise. "JCIET was a learning experience in how to deploy with a big datalink. Back home there is just no way to get that type of training."

Once the deployment began, the first challenge was obvious: How do you communicate in an environment where everyone has their "own way of doing things?" said Kyrazis.

"When working in a joint environment, other units always do things differently," said Kyrazis. "So the challenge was trying to convince people why our platform works the best for certain situations."

And, keeping the aircraft running efficiently during the deployment was a challenge that the 125th not only met, but also excelled at by being the "savior for

many of the other units," said Chief Master Sgt. Joseph G. Poltis, the 125th Air Generation Squadron NCOIC.

"A few of the units didn't bring the amount of equipment and resources that we did so we had to help by lending parts out for the other aircraft," said Poltis. "Essentially, our squadron was the lead in terms of maintenance."

For their part in the exercise, the FANG provided the required number of fully mission-capable F-15 fighters in accordance with the Air Tasking Order, said Lt. Col. James W. Agee, former commander of the 159th Fighter Squadron.

"The complexity and the number of players made this mission high-risk," said Agee.

"Ultimately, the key to success was unit cohesion and the superb cooperation, coordination and sense of common goal."



An F-16 from the 62nd Fighter Squadron, Luke AFB, Ariz., takes off for another 'datalink' wargame. The mission allowed a multitude of units from every service branch to practice important communication tactics in a joint battle-space environment.

Photos by Senior Master Sgt. Robert H. Tanner

Chaplain's Corner...



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas

Chaplain Lt. Col. Steven E. Thompson speaks with second graders at Louis Sheffield Elementary School. Thompson's visit with the children is representative of the type of civic activities the Heroes of the Faith will recognize once it becomes an official program.

Heroes of the faith

*By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Steven E. Thompson
125th Fighter Wing Chaplain*

The Bible reveals in Hebrews 6:10, "For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints."

Isn't it a fantastic thought to consider that the God of creation who steers the universe is mindful and grateful of every good thing that you do! Wouldn't the world be a better place to live if more people *complimented and comforted* more often than *complained and criticized*? I think so.

Hebrews chapter 11 offers an extensive list of Old Testament men and women who stepped up to the plate of life and gave of themselves in serving God and ministering to His people. They were "Heroes of the Faith." Today you work beside people just like them. They lead busy lives but are not too busy to be

life-impacting leaders in their communities.

Technical Sgt. Stephen J. Hendrix recently shared an idea about a program that will help us do a better job of expressing gratitude by recognizing the folks in the Florida Air National Guard who are busy working and serving in their churches and other faith group organizations. We have tentatively named this program, "Heroes of the Faith."

It's not official yet, however, you may want to begin thinking about who you will nominate to be recognized as a "Hero of the Faith."

Motorcycle Weekend

*By Tech. Sgt. Stephen J. Hendrix
125th Fighter Wing Chapel*

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Steven E. Thompson and the chapel staff sponsored the first-ever Motorcycle Weekend—an event that showcased the "steel horses" of 125th Fighter Wing members. The motorcycles were parked in a designated area near the Headquarters building Saturday of the May UTA.

Wing personnel voted on their favorite bike throughout the day. Votes were cast for the favorite Harley Davidson, Honda or Suzuki. The event drew 21 motorcyclists, close to 200 ballots and culminated in a group "ride" led by Capt. Robert T. Botkin, 125th Logistics Plans officer.

A unique morale builder, Motorcycle Weekend was a complete success. If it is continued next year, it may expand to include classic cars and hot rods.

The balloting was divided into three categories: favorite Harley, favorite non-Harley, and favorite specialty cycle. The Harley



Photo By Master Sgt. Lee-ann R. Steiner

category winner was Master Sgt. Joel A. Chappell, 125th Communications Squadron. The winner of the non-Harley category was Staff Sgt. Michael G. Cooper, 125th Logistics Squadron and the specialty category winner was Technical Sgt. Robert D. Mann, 125th Maintenance Squadron.

The chapel staff thanks all participants for making Motorcycle Weekend a success.

Giving the gift of life

By Staff Sgt. Jeffrey W. Armes
125th Maintenance Squadron

An estimated 30,800 children and adults in the United States, (more than 500 of them in the Department of Defense) are diagnosed each year with leukemia, aplastic anemia or, one of more than 70 other fatal blood diseases.

The 125th Fighter Wing teamed up with the C.W. Bill Young / Department of Defense Marrow Donor Program April 13, 2002 in an effort to register potential life-saving bone marrow donors.

Seventy-seven personnel from the Air and Army Guard donated blood and registered during the day-long event held in the hangar classroom.

After signing a consent form, donors provided a blood sample that will be tested at a Navy-testing laboratory to determine a marrow matching type.

Jerry Gillespie, Program recruiter, was on hand and lauded the turn out. "Considering the 120 plus people deployed from the 125th, I would consider this turn-out a successful drive," said Gillespie.

Jennifer Verstandig—who resides in Gainesville, Fla., and suffers from leukemia—was the inspiration for the drive. She visited the 125th during the drive and thanked everyone for their generosity.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas

Captain Stacy L. Beeson, a nurse with the 125th Medical Squadron, draws blood from Tech. Sgt. Jerry E. Deese from the 125th Military Equal Opportunity office. Beeson also donated blood during the drive.

Volunteers from various Wing sections helped with registration and other administrative duties throughout the day.

Members of the 125th Medical Squadron drew blood throughout the day and some also registered with the program.

"I never donated in the Wing's previous registration drives," said Maj. Pamela Y. Blunt, 125th Medical Squadron. "I didn't realize the importance of registering until I saw a documentary about the pain and suffering people went through. From that point on, I decided to do whatever it took to help."

Those who 'registered' are now entered into the National registry. If a donor's blood type 'matches' a patient's type, the donor will be contacted and given further instructions.

Once registered, there is no need to do so again. However, it is important that your contact information be current. You may update your address by calling 1-800-MARROW-3, ext. 501.

Individuals who missed the opportunity to register and would like more information can contact the C.W. Bill Young Department of Defense Marrow Donor Program at 1-800-627-7693 or send an e-mail to publicaffairs@dodmarrow.com.

Give the gift of life—register with the National Registry today!



Jennifer Verstandig



Staff Sgt. Jefferey C. Warren, 125th Maintenance Squadron, prepares vials for collecting blood during the DoD Bone Marrow Drive. Warren, along with other members of the 125th, volunteered their time for the cause.

Fighting a Glo



A KC-10 Extender deployed to Al Udeid, Qatar,
in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Bethann Hunt

Global War

*By Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas
125th Fighter Wing Public Affairs*

The United States is fighting a war on terror. While al Qaeda and other terror groups strive to create a world ruled by intolerance and repression, American forces and its allies endeavor to eradicate the hate and violence emerging from terrorist measures.

The latter endeavor hits home here at the 125th Fighter Wing. Although known mostly for its role in Operation Noble Eagle, since Sept. 11 the 125th has deployed numerous personnel overseas to fight the war on terrorism. The most notable deployments have been to three hotspots: Pakistan, Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

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Pakistan

Senior Master Sgt. William A. Hodges, a full-time fire chief at the 125th, has had a tough year. Shortly after deploying to Moody AFB, Ga., in October 2001, Hodges was forward deployed to an undisclosed location in Pakistan.

"We already knew something was going to happen," said Hodges. "They had the deployment set up. They already knew the location, had the people picked and everything else. Moody was just a staging area."

After arriving in Pakistan, Hodges main role was to perform controlled burns for the purpose of destroying possible information that could be used for information warfare by anyone who rummaged through the trash.

The most perilous action Hodges had to face during his rotation occurred after a routine controlled burn. Hodges and his team were awakened in the night by a call from the tower.

"A burn we performed earlier in the day somehow jumped the firebreaks and went through a pipe underneath the road to the other side," said Hodges.

At first, the tower thought the fire was another control burn put on by the fire department.

Upon realizing that it wasn't, "they called us at 2 a.m. and asked if we were burning anything and we said 'no.' And they said, 'well, you all might want to get up'," said Hodges. Hodges and his team saved two buildings that night.

The fire was the extent of the danger that he faced overseas. Yet, as if the experience of deploying overseas wasn't enough to test his resolve, Hodges rotation was interrupted by news from home that would send him back to the states. His father, Reggie A. Hodges, was on his deathbed, sending Hodges

to New Orleans May 1 to say a final goodbye. His father died May 5.

"It was hard to leave because I felt I still had a job to do, and his health was failing before I left, but I knew I had to go home," said Hodges.

Saudi Arabia

Before departing for Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia, Master Sgt. Joseph E. Mann, first sergeant for the 125th Medical Squadron, knew what his duties would be: Red Cross calls, housing issues and more housing issues for a squadron at the Joint Task Force in South West Asia.

Upon his arrival, Mann soon found that his was not a squadron first sergeant tasking—he was to perform first shirt duties for the entire Joint Task Force.

"With such a large group the Red Cross calls were the most difficult," said Mann. "It's harder to get to know everyone, especially when most of the personnel were on 90-day rotations."

Although Mann did not have to deal with a family loss as Hodges did, he did have to deal with someone else's loss—a young airman whose brother was killed in a coal mining accident.

"It's always hard to tell someone news like that," said Mann. "That was the toughest thing I had to do over there."



Photo by Senior Airman Angela M. Walls

Staff Sgt. Timothy J. Cogan guards the 'search pit.' According to Cogan, guarding the search pit was the most dangerous aspect of the mission.

Qatar

In November 2001 the US Embassy in Qatar confirmed that several American servicemen were wounded in a shooting incident, during which a Qatari gunman was killed. The shooting happened just as the tiny Persian Gulf state was beefing up security for the fourth World Trade Organization (WTO) ministerial meeting, due to take place in Doha November 9 to 13.

Although it was an isolated incident, one that occurred four months prior to their arrival, when 13 members of the 125th Security Forces Squadron deployed to Qatar in March, it was the first thing they heard about. Three of the deployed security forces members spoke about the new world they had arrived in.

"As soon as we arrived, that's all we heard about, but we were ready for anything," said

Staff Sgt. John C. Rollyson, a security forces journeyman.

News of the shooting was a wake up call. "We were certainly more vigilant than ever when we got there," commented another deployed policeman, Senior Airman Angela M. Walls. "We knew that this was a whole different world."

Their new world consisted of 12 to 14-hour days in an environment where, right along the fence line, the darkness outside the perimeter allowed very little visibility for the guards on post.

The biggest danger that the men and women faced was at the "pit." The search pit, the desert version of the front gate, was set up to allow two rows of vehicles—sometimes five to six cars in each line—to be searched before entering the base.

Approximately 50 to 80 vehicles were searched on a daily basis. And, with each new vehicle, the prospect of it 'being the one' was a

notion that crossed the mind of Staff Sgt. Timothy J. Cogan, security forces craftsman.

"That was the most dangerous aspect of the job," said Cogan. "We knew that if anything was going to blow up, it would be there. So there wasn't a minute that went by that we didn't let our guard down."

A new view of the world

Before deploying overseas, the personnel who have taken part in Operation Enduring Freedom watched the war unfold like the rest of us—on a 'flat screen,' subject to media interpretation. Now, they have the experience of being surrounded by the threat.

With the mounting hostilities encircling the different hotspots, a new sense of awareness has returned home to the 125th.

"I never felt afraid as far as the 'battle'," said Mann. "But with the politics of the surrounding area, it hit closer to home. In the states we have CNN, but in theater, it's all around you."

IN LOVING MEMORY OF...

Staff Sgt. Lindsey R. Atchison

September 11, 1979 - June 21, 2002



Photo by Master Sgt. Shaun W. Withers

*Sometimes it seems
As if it were all a dream
It went by so fast
How come it couldn't last?
It was to understand
That one day you would be a woman
That sometime you'd go away
And start your own life someday
It breaks everyone's heart
To know that new life will not start
You were taken away
The reason no one can say
We all must move on
Even though you are gone
We want you to know
That your memory will never go
But the pain, the hurt and the miss
Will start to fade and we will reminisce
Of all the good times we had
Those times that made us glad
The laughs, the jokes, the stories that
were told
To those memories we will hold*

- By Lindsey R. Atchison (Age 17)

Memorial Day

Veterans, guests gather to pay respects to fallen heroes

*By Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas
125th Fighter Wing Public Affairs*

Memorial Day is much more than a three-day weekend marking the beginning of summer. To many people, especially the nation's thousands of combat veterans, the holiday is a solemn reminder of those who have died fighting America's wars. In light of the events of Sept. 11, Memorial Day 2002 was a poignant reminder of why America honors those who sacrificed so much for so many.

Veterans, guests and current military members gathered for a Memorial Day service Monday, May 27 at the St. Augustine National Cemetery in St. Augustine, Fla. The Florida National Guard, the St. Johns County Veterans Service Office, the Veterans Council of St. Johns County and the Military Order of the World Wars sponsored the service.

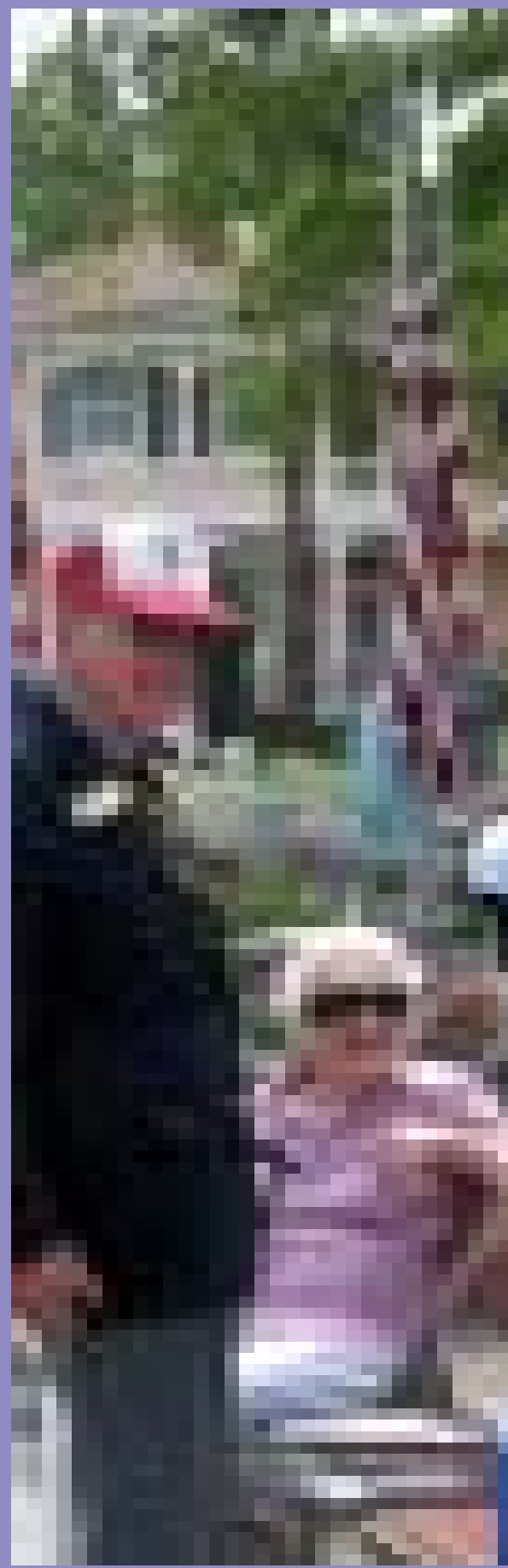


The event featured a "Massing of the Colors" by 20 military and civic organizations, a rifle salute by the 125th Fighter Wing Honor Guard firing detail, and Echo Taps. Major Gen. Douglas Burnett, The Adjutant General of Florida and the commanding officer of the Florida National Guard, spoke about the national day of remembrance's profound transformation following the events of Sept. 11.

"What is different is the somber fact that America has had a "wake up" call as to the value of freedom—values expressed in blood and national priorities," said Burnett. "This is the price that must be paid to protect us from those who would deny this nation the most precious treasure after life itself: Freedom."

According to cemetery records, the burial ground holds the remains of more than 1,200 military members. President Abraham Lincoln approved legislation in 1862 granting approval for a national cemetery system and later, in 1881, the commanding officer of St. Francis Barracks suggested that the old post burial ground be declared a national cemetery.

The American Flag flies eternal at the national cemetery—a symbolic gesture mirroring the undying honor paid to those whose ultimate sacrifice will never be forgotten.





Photos by Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas

Above: Members of the 125th Fighter Wing Honor Guard firing detail wait patiently before they perform the traditional 21-gun salute.

Left: Major Gen. Douglas Burnett (center) , The Adjutant General for the Florida National Guard, spent time talking with veteran's and guests after the Memorial Day service at the St. Augustine National Cemetery.

In brief...

Chief's Corner

Chief Master Sgt. Charles W. Wisniewski
125th Fighter Wing Command Chief

I attended the Air Force Worldwide Command Chief Master Sergeant's conference at Lackland AFB, Texas in May. At least 250 Command Chiefs from every major command and from every Wing (active Air Force, Guard and Reserve) were in attendance.

Over four days, the term "Total Force" was used repeatedly while we were briefed on troop deployments in support of Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle and Air Expeditionary Forces and Expeditionary Combat Support commitments. The active duty, Guard and Reserve had personnel in almost every location. One two-star General stated emphatically, "The mission of the Air Force could not be accomplished without the "Total Force" effort: Air Force, Guard and Reserve working as a team."

The "Total Force" concept is not a new one at the 125th Fighter Wing. Our ability to defend our nation and participate in Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle is a result of what we have accomplished over the last several years building our own "Total Force." We have trained hard, taken on difficult deployments and brought in the best people to build our team.

What is our "Total Force"? It is the Drill Status Guardsmen, the Active Guard Reserve, the civilian technicians and the State employees. When we put on our uniforms and do the work

we have trained to do, you can't tell us apart. Our ability to meet and exceed every tasking we receive and to be considered the best F-15 fighter wing in the country, is the result of our commander and his staff ensuring we have the training we need, the right equipment to do the job and only one goal in mind: *to be a Total Force*.

Wet weather driving

By Lt. Col. T. G. Kyrakis, II
125th Fighter Wing Chief of Safety

When driving in the rain, be very conscious of other drivers' behavior. Most people don't know how to drive in the rain. Those of us who are 'rain-condition' savvy usually learned at the school of hard knocks.

The first and most obvious problem associated with driving in the rain is visibility. The harder it rains, the less you can see. A driver is lucky to see the vehicle's hood let alone other drivers. Many people drive really fast and put on their hazard lights. Not only does this not grant a driver X-ray vision, *IT IS AGAINST THE LAW*. Hazard lights can only be used for a fully-stopped (meaning not moving) condition.

To increase visibility--the ability to see and for others to see you--turn your headlights on. The rule of thumb is: if the wipers are on, the headlights should be on as well. Florida state law reads: 'headlights must be used when visibility is less than 1000 feet' (less than one-fifth of a mile). Fog lights also increase visibility - not for

seeing, but for being seen. Also, use caution around large tractor-trailers. They kick up water and often make visibility worse than the rain itself.

The more insidious wet weather hazard is hydroplaning. It occurs when tires lose traction on the road's surface. The vehicle literally ends up driving on top of the water. Have you ever driven through a large puddle on the side of the road and almost had the steering wheel jerked out of your hand as the front tire digs into the water? Well, you're lucky because that tire *DIDN'T* hydroplane.

The first factor leading to hydroplaning is your tread depth. If your tire tread is not deeper than the water, the vehicle is set up to hydroplane. That is why a bald tire can hydroplane on a patch of water, while a monster truck can go through a wading pool with no danger. Second, your tire pressure is a direct function of the speed at which you will hydroplane if the water depth exceeds your tread.

To prevent hydroplaning, make sure your tires are properly inflated and have good tread depth. Slow down when approaching puddles. Drive in the tracks or vehicle-worn places in the road and not in the highway grooves because more water pools there.

If you happen to hydroplane, *DO NOT HIT THE BRAKES*. Hitting the brakes causes skidding and the vehicle will go out of control. Release the gas pedal and steer straight until the vehicle comes back into contact with the road.

In wet conditions, arriving late is much better than not getting there at all!

Family Readiness

*Ms. Beth Eifert
125th Fighter Wing
Family Readiness
Coordinator*



Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld, recently admonished that “it’s not if, but when” al Qaeda will strike again, and our Commander-in-Chief, President George W. Bush often reminds us that we are at war.

It is no surprise, then, that members of the Florida Air National Guard could be called upon at a moment’s notice to serve in any number of places around the globe.

My question for you is: Are you ready? I mean really ready?

Do you have a Will? Have you left it with someone you can trust? What about Powers of Attorney allowing a trusted friend or family member to make important legal or financial decisions on your behalf in your absence? Is

your DD Form 93 (Record of Emergency Data) and DEERS enrollment up-to-date?

Does your spouse know how to handle the finances in your absence, or how to reach you overseas if there is an emergency at home? Have you discussed health care options if you are called to leave your full-time job for a long duration?

These are just a sample of the vital questions you must answer with your family members prior to deployment, and it’s my role as the 125th Family Readiness Coordinator to provide you with the guidance and referral you need to ensure that you are prepared to answer the call when it comes.

Family Readiness is critical to retention, efficiency and safety. Service members are more apt to remain with the Guard if their families feel included and supported. Confident families make for confident troops who can accomplish their mission efficiently and safely, ensuring a speedy return.

Begin NOW to review your own family readiness needs to prevent problems before they occur. Call me at 741-7027 or come to the Wing Public Affairs Office and let me help you with your Family Readiness needs.

Operations Security (OPSEC)

*By Maj. Julia A. Kyrakis
Alternate Wing OPSEC Officer*

During a recent Wing Operations Security (OPSEC) assessment, at least 2,500 telephone calls were monitored and more than 25,000 e-mails were collected for analysis over a two-week period. Although the Wing’s OPSEC practices are good areas for improvement include: revealing aircraft operational status, talking about future deployments, disclosing passwords and leaving phones off the hook.

Phone calls made over a four-day period in June provided detailed information regarding aircraft tail numbers and the operational status of each. Remember, the characteristics, capabilities and limitations of weapons systems and

strength and readiness of assets need to be protected.

Several phone calls made over a two-day period discussed future Wing deployments including the various locations and dates. Specifics regarding deployments must always be protected. These include types and numbers of aircraft, specialty duty identifiers and numbers of personnel, any particular equipment associated and the dates and times associated with the deployment.

Passwords are integral to computer security therefore password disclosures pose a serious threat. Several passwords were revealed either by phone or via e-mail over a four-day period in June. These included administrator passwords and an account

password for the personnel system, PC3. If anything has a password associated with it, you must protect it!

Finally, several phones were left off the hook during this period presenting the potential that conversations could have been picked up by phone. One phone was even left off the hook for 59 hours. Make sure you hang up your phones properly.

We are meeting OPSEC’s primary objectives: protecting friendly operations and degrading an adversary’s war fighting capabilities by denying critical information necessary for planning and decision-making. We still have a way to go.

Whether you’re on the phone or sending an e-mail, just be conscious of the information you’re conveying.

'Can Do' team lifts memorial to final resting place

*By Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas
125th Fighter Wing Public Affairs*

Sitting atop its new home as the newest memorial at the Camp Blanding Museum, near Starke, Fla., an F-106 Delta Dart fighter jet rests upon a steel beam—forever 'soaring' through the sky.



Visitors and volunteers watch as a crane lifts the renovated fighter jet onto the steel beam located in the center of the exhibit. Many of the spectators were members of the Florida National Guard, Army and Air.



Photos by Senior Master Sgt. Robert H. Tanner

The renovated Cold War-era aircraft was positioned recently at the memorial site and is the centerpiece of the Florida Air National Guard Heritage exhibit dedicated to the men and women of the FANG—both past and present.

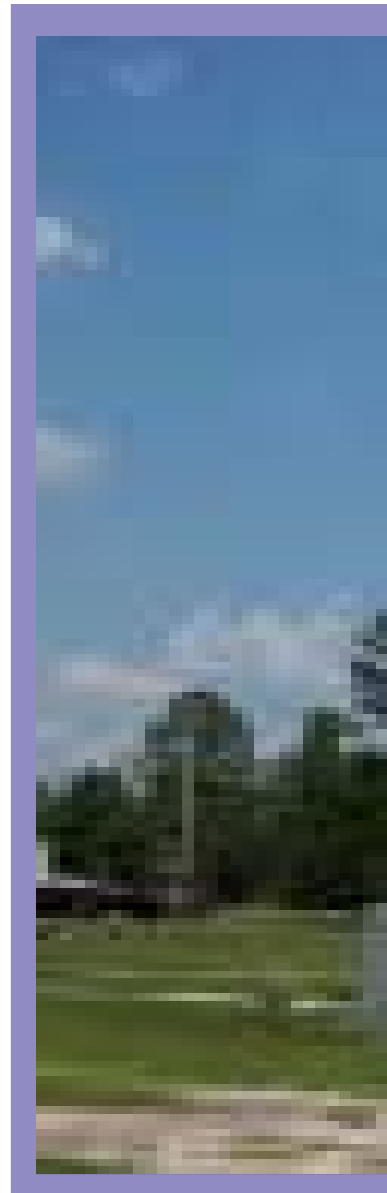
The project represents three years of hard work by a self-proclaimed "Can Do" team made up of volunteers from the FLANG Retirees Association, the 202nd Red Horse Squadron, the Southeastern Area Defense Sector and the 125th Fighter Wing.

"We decided that we've got a lot of people (in the retiree association) who worked on that aircraft," said retired Brig. Gen. Donald E. Barnhart, former assistant adjutant general for air in Florida.

"So, retired Master Sgt. Jack B. Stuart made the plea and there was about 15 retirees who said 'yeah' we *can do* that," said Barnhart.

Barnhart was the catalyst and co-chairman for the project along with retired Colonel Frank Kozdras.

Plans for the museum exhibit began in 1998 when the Camp Blanding Museum Association received permission from the United States Air Force Museum located at Wright



Patterson AFB, Ohio, to turn the aircraft into a static display.

“One of the aircraft the FANG flew for the longest time was the F-106. It commemorated the Cold War-era and it seemed to be the perfect centerpiece,” said Barnhart.

The team of volunteers located an F-106 ‘drone’ at Tyndall AFB, Fla., and in March 2001, began dismantling the aircraft, according to Barnhart. Once dismantled, the jet was loaded onto tractor-trailers and transported to Camp Blanding where it would be renovated and, ultimately, placed at the memorial site.

The biggest challenge for the group of volunteers was taking an airplane that was built in 1959 and moving it 350 miles, said retired Lt. Col. Ernie L.

Webster, another volunteer and former F-106 pilot for the FANG.

“It’s quite a task,” said Webster. “We found that it was a much larger job than what we had anticipated.”

After three years of hard work, Barnhart and his ‘Can Do’ team are both pleased and relieved that the ‘centerpiece’ of the project has finally been completed.

“It’s quite a relief. We’ve had a lot of people help us. I can’t say enough about the 125th and the 202nd—they’ve been a tremendous help,” said Barnhart. “The hard work that everyone has put forth for this project is a wonderful testimony for the men and women of the Guard.”

Funding for the memorial was contributed solely through donations made by guardsmen, both retired and active.



The F-106 was selected as the centerpiece of the exhibit because of the critical role that it played in the “Cold War Era.” The new static display is surrounded by unit monuments from each of the Florida Air National Guard’s units located throughout the state.



Photo by Master Sgt. Shaun W. Withers

*By Lt Col Robert M. Branyon
159th Fighter Squadron Commander*

“Sir, I assume command!”...Those are the words I spoke to Col. Charles V. Ickes, II during the June UTA, as I saluted and accepted the 159th Fighter Squadron flag, signaling the change of command of the squadron from Lt. Col. James W. Agee, Jr. to me. Right about then, it hit me that I was accepting a challenge of considerable magnitude. It helped to know that I was not alone in that situation.

There are numerous “commanders” at all levels of the 125th Fighter Wing, whether they are a commander by formal job position or they are a “commander” by the fact that they have folks under their supervision. I believe that, together, we make a pretty impressive team. We are a team that, not only works together for a very noble cause in the defense of the United States and the values of democracy and human rights, but also a team that is bound by the challenges and hazards of military life and commitments.

Being a military service member means being willing to be put in a situation that might call for you to risk your life, whether during the intense training we perform or during actual

combat conditions. That’s why, as a base, we practice chemical operations. Any one of us could be deployed to a region where chemical weapons could be employed. There are definite risks involved in our profession.

I think about my pilot buddies in the squadron who have “close calls” even on training missions and also the risk involved in flight operations over trigger-happy Iraq. I hear about the Security Police forces deploying to various worldwide locations, exposed to possible terrorist attacks. I think about Tech. Sgt. Joseph B. Kane and Staff Sgt. Wayne Watson, who just gave us our small arms training. They train lots of folks who are unfamiliar with firearms, and I bet they have some stories to tell about “close calls.” I remember Tech. Sgt. Harold “Hal” Goodwin’s wound from the impact of a collapsing F-15 at Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia. I bet there are engine folks who could tell you what it’s like to have an F-15 engine come apart during a maximum performance test, or weapons troops who could tell you the damage that an F-15 self-defense flare would do to a human body if an accident occurred during the arming of the aircraft before takeoff. Depending on your definition of

Continued...

a warrior, you can find plenty of warriors at the 125th Fighter Wing. I hope that each of us can find time to reflect and be proud of the profession we have chosen.

The main reason I started writing articles for *The Eagle's Eye*, was to shed light on the missions of the pilots of the Fighter Squadron so others within the Wing could have a better understanding of what transpires during the various missions of the F-15. I believe that the better understanding someone has of the end result of their hard work, the easier it is to see the value of their role in supporting the missions of the Wing. Since I find myself swamped in my new job, Lt. Col. T.G. "Krazy" Kyrakis is taking over this "information sharing" and he will relate the challenges of the F-15 missions and flying situations.

My parting thoughts--the ones I conveyed in my change of command speech--refer to attitude:

"The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on my life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company...a church...a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice everyday regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past...we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the string we have, and that is our attitude...I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you...we are in charge of our attitudes."
- Charles Swindoll

159th Fighter Squadron gets new commander

*By Maj. Richard E. Bittner
125th Fighter Wing Public Affairs*

The leadership reins of the 159th Fighter Squadron changed hands in a formal ceremony here June 8 as Lt. Col. James W. Agee, Jr., departing 159th Commander, prepares to enter a well-deserved period of retirement after accumulating 21 years of military service.

Lieutenant Col. Robert M. Branyon assumed command from Agee in an official ceremony conducted in the base hangar. The traditional passing of the 159th guide-on symbolized the visible display of the continuity of command for all the members of the unit to see.

Major Gen. Douglas Burnett, Adjutant General of the Florida National Guard and former 159th fighter pilot, was the guest speaker.

During the ceremony, Col. Charles V. Ickes, II, 125th Fighter Wing Commander, characterized Agee as "an outstanding leader

who further raised the bar of an already outstanding fighter squadron!"

Agee led the squadron through one of the nations most tenuous times - the tragic events of September 11th.

During his 18-month tenure, Agee maintained a mantra of excellence - "to be the most respected and feared air superiority squadron in the world; respected by our friends and feared by our adversaries."

Branyon echoed that sentiment but added, "As we continue to meet the demands of our increased tasking since Sept. 11, I plan on creating an environment by which we can find that appropriate life-work balance between our jobs at the FANG and

spending time with our loved ones."

Branyon served as a squadron flight commander and project officer prior to becoming the 22nd commander of the 159th.

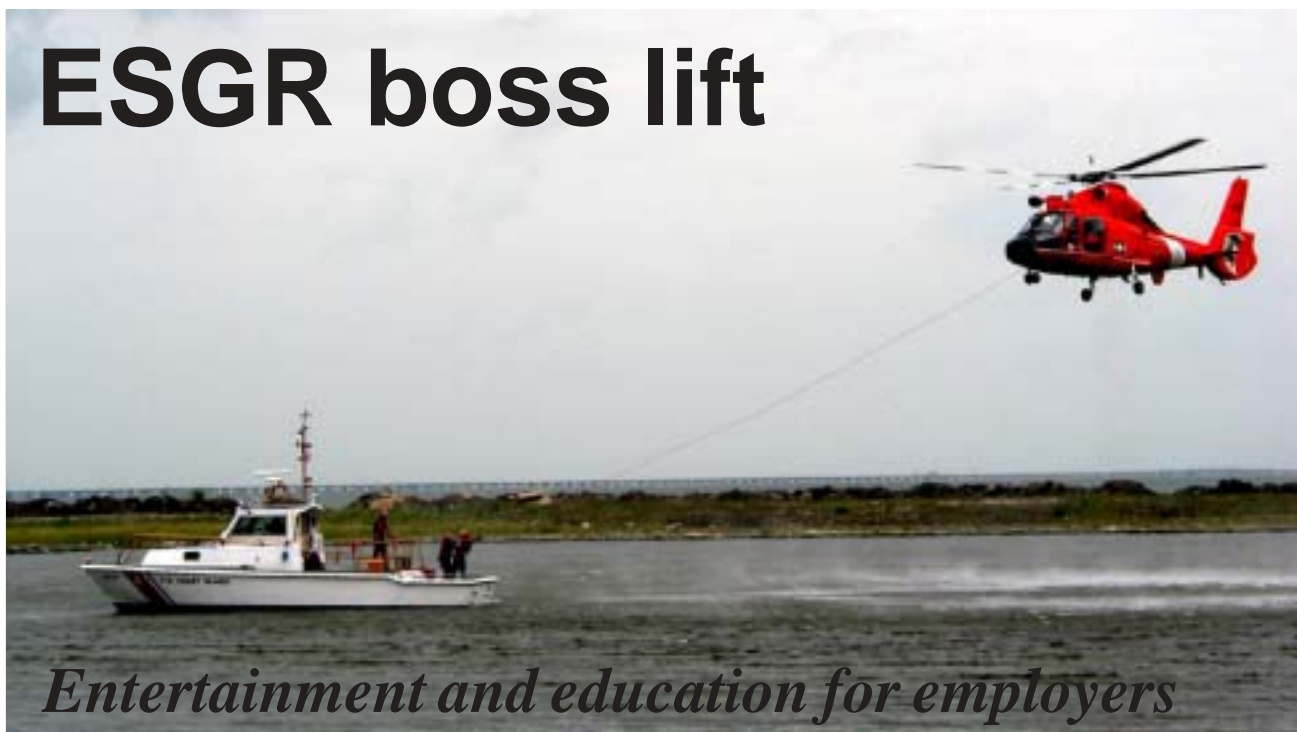
Branyon is a Boeing 737 Captain for Delta Air Lines. He resides in Orange Park, Fla. with his wife of 19 years, Leslie, and their three daughters, Cheryl, Jackie and Katie.



Photo by Master Sgt. Shaun W. Withers

Lt. Col. Robert M. Branyon (middle) salutes Col. Charles V. Ickes, II (left) as he assumes command of the 159th Fighter Squadron from Lt. Col. James W. Agee, Jr.

ESGR boss lift



Entertainment and education for employers

Photo by Maj. Richard E. Bittner

*By Maj Richard E. Bittner
125th Fighter Wing Public Affairs*

The first 12 of my 17 years in the Florida Air National Guard were typical of most. My military duty consisted of one weekend per month and irregular annual training periods. Employed in the transportation industry, my bosses were none too keen on my absences from the office.

In fact, my manager's written knowledge of what I did during 'drill weekend' and 'annual training' would fill less space than this paragraph.

The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (NCESGR) 'Boss lifts' is one method our government and Department of Defense leadership uses to bridge that knowledge gap.

'Boss-lifts' take civilian employers out of their normal environments and, for two or three days, thrust them into the world of the military.

Each state and territory ESGR committee receives funds to support one Boss-lift tour per year.

The tours generally consist of military airlift, usually a comfortable C-130 with web seats, from the home state to the location city to be toured. The employers will tour as many military activities as time will allow. Recently, the Florida ESGR committee "deployed" to New Orleans, La. and toured 10 activities.

The civilians were treated to briefings and

static displays from the 926 Fighter Wing (Air Reserve A-10's) and the 159 Fighter Wing (Air Guard F-15's). The Navy provided a shuttle boat-ride down the Mississippi.

The Coast Guard performed a search and rescue demonstration complete with a boat-to-helicopter patient transfer. The Naval Reserve (VP-94) showed off their P-3 Orions and the commander of VR-54 (C-130) just marveled about "the caliber of his reservists and how he could not do the mission without them."

He echoed the sentiments of the Marine Forces Reserve (helicopters) briefer.

Continued...



Photo by Master Sgt. Shaun W. Withers

Colonel Alan K. Rutherford, 159th Operations Group commander, briefs employers about the F-15's capabilities. Rutherford also informed the guests of the 125th Fighter Wing's ongoing alert mission after Sept. 11.

The Louisiana National Guard headquarters staff briefed the group on their varied missions and showed off their very impressive state military museum at Jackson Barracks.

The 125th Fighter Wing supports Boss-lifts in two ways. Every spring and summer our unit is asked to be a "tour stop" for other state's tours.

This year we supported a Wisconsin group in June.

We also provide airlift for the Florida ESGR committee boss lift when operations allow.

One local 125th employer participated in this year's 'lift.' Gary L. Butler, area manager with Ajilon Communications employs Master Sgt. Joseph E. Mann, 125th Medical Squadron first sergeant.

Butler, who never served in the military,

was thrilled by the opportunity to participate in the trip.

"He (Butler) has always been supportive of my duty as a guardsman and was amazed by the role that the Guard and Reserve play in 'the grand scheme of things'," said Mann.

An aviation enthusiast, Bulter especially enjoyed the opportunity to sit in the flight deck of the C-130.

The cargo area ride gave him a higher appreciation of what military members endure. He also participated in the 125th's ESGR luncheon for employers in February.

When asked why he was interested in the ESGR events Butler said, "I support Ed's military career because he supports me so well."

C-130 supports different kind of "CAP" mission

The 125th Fighter Wing C-130 Fighter Support Aircraft (FSA) provided more than just "lift" to a group of 50 cadets and chaperones from the Gainesville, Fla. Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Sunday June 30, 2002. They provided the experience of a lifetime. The cadets were conducting a field trip to Kennedy



Space Center to support local CAP Aerospace Education initiatives and Cadet Programs and our C-130

provided the air transportation. The C-130 flew the group from Keystone Heights (Fla.) Airport to Patrick AFB, Fla. with a late evening return to Keystone using local flying training hours. Captain Tom Beukleman, commander of the Gainesville squadron, commented that the C-130 ride was the highlight of the trip for many of the cadets, some of which had never flown before. The cadets are pictured here "forming up" on the Keystone ramp and marching to the C-130 tail for loading.



Photos by Major Richard E. Bittner

In the Spotlight...

Staff Sgt. Pedro Negron, Jr.

Negron transferred from Washington Air National Guard and has been with the 125th Communications Flight working as a telecommunications and computer maintenance technician since March 2000.

The drill status guardsman—who has spent the last two years working for AT&T Broadband on broadband internet services—has been on Title 10 orders since September 11.

Negron spent almost 11 years in the Army working as a wheeled vehicle repairman.

Happy to be an Air Guardsman, he's been most impressed with the Guard's immediate concern for its people's welfare.

While he was at technical training for the Washington Guard, Negron's father suffered a series of strokes.

"They [the Washington Guard] told me to take care of my family, which is something that never would have happened while I was in the Army," said Negron. "So, I got a job with the 125th to be near my father."

Married since September 1, 2001, he and his wife, Sherry, are expecting their first child.

Chief Master Sgt. James M. McIntyre, Negron's supervisor, wishes there were more like him.

"He is an outstanding troop," said McIntyre. "He's extremely versatile and has one of the best attitudes of anyone I've ever worked with."

First Lieutenant Williams R. Cannon, the acting Communications Flight Commander, agrees.

"Sgt. Negron always goes the extra mile," said Cannon. "He doesn't hesitate to stay late and he always has a smile."



Photos by Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas
Staff Sgt. Pedro Negron, Jr. installs a fiber optic cable to a Starband Satellite link. The satellite link is used for the computer network during deployments.

Senior Airman Slychet P. Stone

Stone is a personnel specialist assigned to the 125th Aircraft Generation Squadron (AGS). She is on Title 10 orders and is working full-time in the AGS orderly room.

Stone said she mostly does, "ORDERS!" Stone stated that the personnel office has processed almost as many during the first part of this year as they did all of last year.

Stone is currently on hiatus from her civilian job at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida, she usually works full-time as a medical review analyst.

She transferred to the Florida Air National Guard from the Florida Army National Guard two years ago after spending more than five years in the Army Guard as a wheeled vehicle repairman.

The Air Guard took some getting used to according to Stone.

"I went to technical school and they had maid service. I've been in culture shock ever since," she said.

The 125th AGS Commander, Lt. Col. Ronald G. Corey, is pleased to have her working full-time.

"Since she's come on board, productivity has increased, speed and response time have increased and more attention to detail and personal touch has been given," said Corey.

Stone ultimately wants to become an officer. She hopes to be accepted to the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program at Florida State University and wants to have her bachelor's degree within the next two years.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas

Senior Airman Slychet P. Stone reviews Air National Guard Instruction (ANGI) 36-2503, Administrative Demotion of Airman. As a personnel specialist, she is responsible for knowing the regulations pertaining to discharging guardmembers if the situation arises.

Promotions

To Major

Richard W. Dill

To First Lieutenant

Victoria R. Rozbora, 125SVF

To Second Lieutenant

Carl R. Guckenberger, 125MS

To Chief Master Sergeant

Robert E. Mixson, 125FW

To Senior Master Sergeant

Keith L. Cooper, 125CF

Sharri J. Crews, 125MEDS

Phillip E. McLaughlin, 125LS

William A. Hodges, 125CES

Reese D. Edwards, 125MSF

Donnie L. Dingle, 125CF

To Master Sergeant

Sheila E. Franco, 125AGS

Kent Pearson, 125MS

Aubrey A. Shaw, Jr., Det. 1

Mary I. Rouche, 125MS

Holger J. Schneeberger, 125AGS

Larry W. Coker, 125MS

Virgilio Pubill, Jr., 125MS

Terrance S. Harris, 125CES

Michael S. Campbell, 125 LSF

Jackson R. Terrill, 125 SFS

Michael E. Holder, 125 CE

To Technical Sergeant

Susanne M. Ottlein, 125MSF

Jerry O. Rhodes, 125MS

Paul R. Bryant, 125CF

Catherine S. Chacon, 125FW

Scott A. Cicero, 125AGS

Robert P. Collum, Jr.

Richard H. Fichter, 125SVF

Anthony T. Gatlin, 125AGS

Richard N. Geer, 125CF

Joshua A. Hornick, 125MS

Philip A. Plourde, 125MEDS

Michael S. Ramsey, 125MS

Jeffrey C. Warren, 125LSF

To Staff Sergeant

Robert K. Armstrong, 125AGS

Kevin T. Bullivant, 125AGS

David L. Gaskins, 125AGS

Shelley R. Gill, 125CF

Jose L. Gutierrez, 125MS

William W. Hammons, 125AGS

Ronald Harrelson, Jr., 125AGS

Scott W. Osborne, 125SFS

Fernando Rico, Jr., Det. 1

Tiphonie J. Spradlin, 125MS

To Senior Airman

Kelly J. Barnewolt, 125MS

Jasmine L. Bone, 125SVF

Glenn F. Foreman, Jr., 125SVF

Rebecca L. Fox, 125MS

April L. Garnett, 125LS

Alvin S. Lee, 125CES

Jarvis T. Moore, 125MS

To Airman 1st Class

Danielle D. Hines, 159FS

Welcome

Maj Nada Acquaro, 125MEDS

Maj Robert J. Wetzel, 159 FS

Maj Christopher E. Prusak, 159 FS

Capt Bryan D. Gillan, 159FS

1st Lt Keshan L. Gainey, 125MEDS

MSgt Ramona L. Burnett, 125MSF

SSgt Steven R. Burnett, 125AGS

SSgt Shandria S. Brown, 125LS

SSgt Casey S. Brock, 125MS

SSgt Alan D. Cain, 125MS

SSgt Robert L. Okeefe, 125MS

SSgt Vance W. Rizzo, 125CES

SSgt Patricia B. Robertson, 125LS

SSgt William L. Lunsford, 125CF

SSgt Christopher Duemmel, 125MS

SSgt Alex Young, 125LS

SSgt Trent M. Percy, 125SFS

SrA Brandy L. Brasher, 125AGS

SrA John R. Bonovich, 125AGS

SrA Katleen I. Gilbert, 125MS

SrA Richard S. Internicola, 125CES

SrA Edwin D. Velazquez, Jr., 125MS

SrA Drapier R. Johnson, 125AGS

SrA Latonya F. Harris, 125MEDS

A1C Kelly D. Willis, 125SFS

A1C Shane T. Todd, 125MS

A1C John M. Hatfield, 125SFS

A1C Ramon A. Acevedo, 125MS

A1C Kurt D. Day II, 125MS

A1C Jeremy A. Levesque, 125MS

A1C Jonathon D. Engler, 125CES

A1C Brandon A. Calhoun, 125CES

A1C David M. Lakoskey, 125MS

A1C Stacey A. Lee, 125SG

A1C Jessie J. Viator, 125AGS

A1C Holly M. Larimer, 125SFS

Farewell

LtCol Robin K. Bailey, 125MEDS

SMSgt Robert E. Miller, Jr., 125LS

MSgt John F. Bowen, 125LSF

MSgt Mark T. Cavill, 125FW

MSgt Samuel H. Graham, 125LS

MSgt Donald M. Jackson, 125LSF

MSgt Kenneth R. McEwen, 125LS

Florida Air National Guard Retiree's Association

By Ernie Webster

President, Florida Air National Guard

Retiree's Association (FLANGRA)

Just a few items to cover for this quarter...

The fall FLANGRA meeting is being planned for October 25. That is an off week for Florida football so we should have a good turn out.

The May meeting did not have as many attendees as we usually do. Maj. Michael A. Prinzi put on an excellent program and we really appreciate the C-26 folks taking the time to talk to us.

The NAS Jacksonville O'Club has been renovated and I will make the arrangements as soon as they start booking dates. I know the cost has been a concern for many and hopefully we will be able to get it down at NAS Jax.

The Camp Blanding Museum project is nearly completed. June 5, the F-106 was put on the pedestal and it is beautiful. The crane operators with the help of 202nd Red Horse Squadron troops put it up in about four hours. Now, the sprinkler system can be completed along with some work around the pedestal and that will finish it.

Although the retirees were the driving force behind the F-106 project, we had a lot of help from a lot of different people. Don Bergin and his crew did a beautiful job on the paint. Without his and several others' expertise we would still be working on this project. We extend our sincere thanks to all who have had a hand in this great undertaking. It is something all our people can be proud of as well as any F-106 unit in the country that had a part in the Cold War Era.

Call me at 724-8782 or e-mail me at Eweb34@aol.com. Have a great summer!

Ernie

Information is the foundation for the full development of the human mind. The information that is available to the human mind is the foundation for the development of the human mind. The information that is available to the human mind is the foundation for the development of the human mind.

Information is the foundation for the full development of the human mind.

Information is the foundation for the full development of the human mind.

What is the purpose of the book?
The purpose of the book is to provide a comprehensive overview of the field of information science. The book is designed to be a resource for students and researchers alike. It covers the history of information science, the current state of the field, and the future of the field. The book is written in a clear and concise style, making it accessible to a wide range of readers.

What is the scope of the book?
The scope of the book is broad, covering the entire field of information science. It includes topics such as information theory, information systems, information management, and information technology. The book is designed to be a comprehensive resource for students and researchers alike.

What is the structure of the book?